

# Curriculum & Instruction

UTAH STATE OFFICE  
of  
EDUCATION

## Curriculum Highlights

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Curriculum and Instruction would like to welcome **David Smith** as our new Math and Science Coordinator. David will be directly responsible for Elementary Math and supervise all Math and Science areas.

The first year of **USTAR** has ended and districts are reporting great success for students who benefited from extended year and extended day opportunities to study additional mathematics and science. Projects ranged from remedial credit recovery to opportunities to work with professionals developing advanced science projects. Final reports are due October 1.

The **ALS Directors** are scheduled to meet on September 23, 2009, at Jordan High School from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review the findings of the US Department of Education Title III Monitoring Visit; develop an action plan to address the findings; and provide training on pressing Utah issues related to English Language Learners.

The **Governor's Native American Summit Committee** invited **Larry EchoHawk**, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, United States Department of Interior, as a keynote speaker. The Utah State Office of Education Superintendent, Dr. Larry Shumway, the American Indian Specialist, Dr. Chuck Foster, and the American Indian/Alaskan Native Advisory Committee proposed a partnership with the Bureau of Indian Education and the Utah Public Schools regarding Indian students. The partnership would establish leadership, program development, funding sources, sovereignty, Native language programs, and a relationship between Tribal, State, and Federal Officials.



The Utah Board of Education approved Dr. Larry Shumway's, "Promises to Keep" as the state's vision and mission for Utah's system of public education. The Utah Public Education System keeps its constitutional promise by: Ensuring literacy and numeracy for all Utah children; Providing high quality instruction for all Utah children; Establishing curriculum with high standards and relevance for all Utah children; Requiring effective assessment to inform high quality instruction and accountability.

In support of this mission, the Curriculum and Instruction Strategic Goals for 2009-2010 are: Literacy and numeracy for all students; High quality instruction; Curriculum with high standards and instructional relevance for all students; Focus on closing the existing academic achievement gap between student sub-groups; Use of data to inform curricular and instructional decisions, and provide accountability.

Volunteer districts are piloting a new **kindergarten assessment** this school year. The assessment covers critical skills in both literacy and numeracy, and is administered at the beginning and again at the end of the school year. Within various district and charter schools, teachers are administering the new assessment to over 10,000 incoming kindergarten students statewide. Use of the assessment is not required by USOE. Student responses are recorded onto answer sheets which will be scored at USOE. Information from the pilot will guide the process of



improving the assessment for use in future years and provide ongoing research data regarding the impact of the Optional Extended-Day Kindergarten funds.

**Regional Curriculum Directors meetings** were held across the state on August 10-13. Thank you to Box Elder, Canyons, Carbon, and Iron districts for providing facilities for these meetings. A total of 83 representatives attended from 31 districts, 24 charter schools, NUES, SEDC, SESC, UEN, and USDB. The agenda and meeting minutes have been posted and can be accessed at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/directors/CurrDirMeetings.htm>. As was suggested, Curriculum and Instruction will make every effort to compact and provide meetings back-to-back in an attempt to reduce travel. We also provide a live link to meetings for those needing this option. We are very aware that many of our district leaders wear multiple hats. Lynne Greenwood shared the Curriculum and Instruction mission statement with LEA's. The section's major focus for 2009-2010 will be on closing the achievement gap.

**Family Literacy Centers** in selected LEAs should be fully operational at this time. The ongoing funding for ELL Family Literacy Centers is funded at \$1.8 million for FY2010. This is a 10% reduction in ongoing funding from FY2009. The one-time funding of \$3 million in FY2009 is not continued in FY2010. Districts will be receiving award notification letters very soon. The funding will start flowing in September 2009, in 1/12<sup>th</sup> increments.

The **Utah Instructional Materials Commission** (IMC) meets twice a year to make final recommendations to the State Board of Education on the most recently reviewed instructional materials. Its purpose is to provide schools of the state with the very best available core-related materials, and to eliminate instructional materials that violate Utah Code or State Board rules. The recommendation process also provides for consistent contract pricing for recommended materials. After sending final recommendations to the State Board, the Commission posts the instructional material evaluations on the Internet where they can be accessed by districts, teachers, and parents.

Websites with IMC information are:

- <http://www.schols.utah.gov/curr/IMC/default.htm>—Home page for Utah IMC
- <http://delleat.schools.utah.gov/rims/index.html>—Recommended Instructional Materials Searchable database (RIMS)
- <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/IMC/fall09/Program%20Guidebook%202009.pdf>—Utah Instructional Materials Program Guidebook
- <http://www.uen.org/core/> - Core Curriculum page with links to lesson plans, resources, and instructional materials alignments.

### September/October Dates to Remember

**September 14:** [State Literacy Meeting USOE Boardroom 1:00-3:00](#)

**September 15:** [Health/PE Specialist Meeting USOE Boardroom 9:00-11:00](#)

**September 15:** [Social Studies Directors' Meeting USOE Boardroom 12:00-2:00](#)

**September 18:** [State Math Education Coordinators Committee Grant Building, Springville 8:30-11:30](#)

**September 18:** [State Science Education Coordinators Committee Grant Building, Springville 12:30-3:30](#)

**September 18:** [STAR \(Training for Tutoring Programs\) USOE Boardroom 9:00 start](#)

**September 30:** [Curriculum Directors Embassy Suites, SLC, 9:00-1:00](#)

**October 1,2:** [UEA](#)